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ABSTRACT

This book lays the groundwork for rethinking school finance in the context of new educational policy directions for the 1990s. Proposed educational reforms have created several school finance issues: (1) the linkage between the basic school finance structure, educational goals, and the cost of effective schoolwide strategies; (2) site-based budgeting; (3) teacher compensation; (4) accountability systems that include school-based performance incentives; and (5) school choice funding. Ten chapters address important topics in school financing reform. Drawing on research and compensation strategies used in the private sector, the book discusses not only the various financial dimensions of school reform issues, but also describes the programs adopted by the states and school districts to address them. Chapters include the following: "School Finance and Education Reform: An Overview," by Allan R. Odden; "Restructuring Teacher Compensation Systems," by Allan R. Odden and Sharon Conley; "Financing Middle School Reform: Linking Costs and Education Goals," by David D. Marsh and Jennifer M. Sevilla; "Promoting School-Based Management: Are Dollars Decentralized Too?" by Priscilla Wohlstetter and Thomas Marshall Buffett; "Using Incentives to Promote School Improvement," by Lawrence O. Picus; "Investing Education Dollars: Do We Need a 'Dow Jones Index' for America's Schools?" by James W. Guthrie; "Financing Public School Choice: Policy Issues and Options," by Allan R. Odden and Nancy Kotowski; "Reducing Disparities Across the States: A New Federal Role in School Finance," by Allan R. Odden and Lori Kim; "Supporting School-Linked Children's Services," by Michael W. Kirst; and "Toward the Twenty-First Century: A School-Based Finance," by Allan R. Odden. Endnotes accompany the articles. (LMI)

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